

White Paper

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Application Number: PF-50212-11

Project Director: Katherine Kane

Institution: Harriet Beecher Stowe Center

Reporting Period: 9/1/2011-12/31/2016

Report Due: 3/31/2017

Date Submitted: 3/31/2017



WHITE PAPER
with Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Collections in the Stowe House

Submitted to
National Endowment for the Humanities
by the
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center
Cynthia Cormier, Project Curator
Katherine Kane, Executive Director

March 31, 2017

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2. Project Description, Activities, Accomplishments, Audience and
Continuation of Project beyond Grant Period, including best practices and lessons for the field

Grant Number: PF 50212-11
Project Title: *Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections*
Project Director: Katherine Kane, Executive Director
Grantee Institution: Harriet Beecher Stowe Center
Award Period: September 1, 2011 through December 31, 2016
Report Submitted: March 31, 2017

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections

Based on considerable research and planning, the Stowe Center conducted a major interior renovation of the National Historic Landmark Harriet Beecher Stowe House. The National Endowment for Humanities generously supported the collections preservation and systems upgrades portion of this project, *Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections*, driving the opportunity for changes to interpretation and interior finishes. With the opportunity provided by de-installing the House, the Center rethought and prototyped a new visitor experience for installation in the renovated spaces.

Goals for *Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections* were:

- Improve collections preservation in the 1871 National Historic Landmark Harriet Beecher Stowe House by upgrading and expanding climate management capabilities with new heating, cooling, dehumidification and ventilation systems and installing VESDA fire detection and Marioff Hi-Fog water mist, fire suppression systems.
- Replace 1960s failed double pane window glazing in 44 original windows and three doors and install interior storm windows to improve thermal performance, control light levels and tighten the building envelope.
- Improve in-house storage capabilities and temporarily relocate collections to specialized off-site storage during construction.
- Survey the Stowe House for asbestos-containing materials (ACM), sample and test suspect materials, and remove ACM before construction.

Additionally (but not part of NEH funding): conservation assessments and treatment of priority collection items; completed the Interpretive Plan for the Stowe House, reflecting recent scholarship and extensive visitor feedback for an enhanced and dialogue-based experience; developed a Furnishings Plan for reinstallation of period rooms; and developed a Finishes Plans to refurbish the Stowe House interior with new carpeting, wallpaper and painted finishes based on extensive research.

PROJECT TEAM

- **Project architects, Michael C. Henry, AIA, and Penelope S. Watson, AIA, of Watson & Henry Associates, Bridgeton, NJ.** Together Watson & Henry have over 50 years of experience in assessment, analysis and preservation of historic structures, building systems, materials and technology. Watson & Henry completed the *Master Plan for Interior Environmental Improvements* for the Stowe Center's three buildings in 2003. Their work on the restoration of the NHL Harriet Beecher Stowe House supported by this grant began in 2011.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** This project benefited from careful long range planning. Preservation architects Watson & Henry Associates were selected after a national search. Their first assignment was the creation of 2003 Master Plan for the Center. The Master Plan outlined several phases for environmental and fire system upgrades in all three buildings on the Stowe Center campus. The Stowe House upgrades, 2011-2017, was phase II, and reunited the experienced team from phase I, renovation of library archives storage, completed 2010. Master planning allowed the museum to look at physical plant improvements and space usage over time and fund raise accordingly.
- Watson & Henry engaged **Nick Artim of Heritage Protection Group, Middlebury, VT**, to design fire suppression and detection system. **Lucian Dragulski of Bemis Associates, L.L.C., Farmington, CT**, designed mechanical and electrical systems.
- **Preventative conservator, Wendy Jessup and Associates, Inc., Care of Cultural Property, Arlington, VA**, consulted with the architects on museum environmental conditions and with Stowe Center staff on collections care and conservation during collections relocation and storage.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** Issues surrounding collections care and safety were addressed during project planning since the Preventative Conservator was part of the team advising project architects and Stowe Center staff. The Conservator helped plan collections survey and relocation, and was available for phone consultation throughout collections relocation to answer staff questions as they arose.
- **Construction Managers, Bartlett, Brainard, Eacott, Bloomfield, CT** hired in 2015 to prepare bid documents and hire and direct subcontractors for site work, general construction, window restoration, storm windows, fire suppression and detection systems, HVAC/plumbing, electrical and lightening protection.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** The General Contractors and Construction Managers (CM) serve a critical role in bidding and reporting, and oversaw day-to-day construction. Museum staff maintained a close contact with the Construction Manager and subcontractors, and were available to answer the many questions that arise each day and ensure that the museum's best interests are represented. While construction drawings are detailed, the architect was not on-site every day and on occasion plans need to be modified to respond to field conditions. Minor decisions like where to mount thermostats or emergency lighting to more significant decisions like where to mount electrical panels or park a forklift to avoid garden elements are best handled by museum staff. In addition, when the CM's work is complete, the

ongoing maintenance of new environmental and fire protections systems returns to museum staff so it's critical that staff have a full understanding of how new/expanded systems were installed and operate.

- **Fuss & O'Neill EnviroSciences, L.L.C., Manchester, CT** conducted hazardous materials inspections and sampling at the Stowe House; monitored abatement of asbestos containing materials was performed by **Besech Environmental Services, Ellington, CT**, in 2015 in advance of the construction.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** There are many unknowns concerning the presence of asbestos containing materials (ACMs). The first inspection for potentially hazardous materials done early in the project tested exposed walls, ceiling, flooring, etc. This gave the Stowe Center a better sense of what might be found when opening walls and ceilings as specified in construction drawings. Fortunately the first inspection found very little ACMs, reducing the budget for abatement and redirecting funds elsewhere in construction.
- **Fine Art Security Transport (FAST), Prospect, CT** hired to store the majority of the Stowe House collections, February 2016 – May 2017, and assist with collections relocation.
- **Stowe Center Executive Director Katherine Kane** responsible for overall budget and project management.
- **Project Curator Cynthia Cormier**, hired June 2013 to coordinate with staff and Construction Manager and direct the project, including project management, fund raising, budget management, contract negotiation, collections relocation, scheduling and directing contractors and hiring Collections Assistants.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** Hiring the Project Curator, whose primary function is to manage the project, allowed other staff to focus on operations and keep programs running during construction. The Project Curator kept the project moving forward in a timely manner, drawing on staff expertise as needed. Ideally, current staff would have workloads reduced to allow time to focus on project-related activities..
- **Collections Manager Elizabeth Girard Burgess** supported the Project Curator and directed collection care and safety.
- **Collections Assistants**, short term, part time staff engaged to assist with inventory, packing, unpacking and reinstallation of collections in the Stowe House, and updating PastPerfect collections management software.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** Collections Assistant candidates were carefully vetted for their attention to detail and object handling skills. Packing and unpacking goals were established and reported on daily.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Pre – Construction Activities

- Architects Watson & Henry Associates (W&HA) revised 2010 estimates for design development, construction documents, bidding and administration, September 2013. Project budget, plan and fundraising plan revised accordingly. **Contract for services with W&HA**, January 2015.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** Contracts for services required legal review, which often took longer to complete than expected affecting project timeline and budget.
- Watson & Henry Associates completed **design development** drawings and specifications for the improved interior environment, fire safety and collection protection, in consultation with fire protection specialists at Heritage Protection Group and Bemis Associates, October 2014. Detailed **construction documents**, drawings and specifications completed March 2016.
- **Design development and construction drawings and specifications reviewed by CT's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)** in accordance with guidelines for recipients of SHPO Historic Restoration Fund grants. With these drawings and specifications, Section 106 review was initiated.
- Fuss & O'Neill EnviroScience, LLC, Manchester, CT, conducted two **inspections of the Stowe House for potentially hazardous materials**. The first review was completed using design development documents, October 2014. The second review completed using more detailed construction documents, March 2016. Fuss & O'Neill assisted the Project Curator with drafting and disseminating an RFP to abatement firms. **Abatement of asbestos containing materials** completed by Bestech Environmental Services, May 2016. Fuss & O'Neill monitored the work to ensure materials properly removed, contained and disposed.
- **Bartlett Brainard Eacott (BBE) selected as Construction Managers** February 2016. BBE had served as general contractors for the Stowe Center's most recent capital project improving climate management and fire protection in library archive storage, completed 2010.
- Construction Managers Bartlett Brainard Eacott (BBE) reviewed construction documents and **develop bid specifications for subcontractors** in electrical; HVAC and plumbing; fire protection; window restoration; excavating; and general construction. Once bids were drafted, architect and CT State Historic Preservation Office reviewed and approved. Bids released and work advertised, June 2016. **Contractors hired**, July 2016. BBE **set up field office** in the Stowe House, August 2016. BBE's Safety Director reviewed the worksite and subcontractor bids documents.
- **Preventive Conservator Wendy Jessup visited** the Stowe Center to assist staff with planning for collections relocation and develop the **Move Manual**, July 2015. The Move Manual includes general collections handling guidelines; sequencing for packing; protocols for packing representative types of materials; and sequencing for transport to temporary storage. The Move Manual was used to train specialized collections assistants and direct the move.
- With input from Conservator Jessup, job descriptions for **specialized collections assistants and collections packers** were written and candidates recruited from among staff and through

Emerging Conservation Professionals Network of the American Institute for Conservation. The packing supplies list was developed with input from W. Jessup. The Project Curator attended the New England Museum Association workshop “Moving Collections” at Harvard University’s Art Museums.

- Before packing, **object records were updated in the collections management software Past Perfect** as needed to include photographs, dimensions, conservator assessments and condition. **Packing began** January 2016 and completed March 2016. Collections assistants helped shippers load and unload trucks. They packed 2,008 objects in boxes, including 174 boxes of decorative arts, 246 objects packed individually, and 43 rugs vacuumed, rolled and wrapped.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** Collections records should be updated *before* collections relocation. It is important to have current condition and location included in each object record, along with photographic documentation complete before objects are packed.
- 85 paintings and prints, books and fragile collection items remained at the Center in the **library archival storages facility** in the Katharine Seymour Day House (the Stowe Center’s administrative headquarters, next door to the Stowe House). Books, select decorative arts, and boxed 2-D prints and photographs were stored on shelves; existing art racks were reorganized to make room for select works from the Stowe House, and additional art racks were installed in January 2016.
- Stowe Center staff **toured the FAST off-site storage facility** with Conservator Jessup and Chubb insurance representative, reviewing details of security and environment. FAST implemented recommendations to improve environment. Contract with fine art movers and storage facility, FAST, signed March 2016. The majority of the Stowe House **collections moved to the offsite facility** February and March 2016.
- **The Stowe Center remained open during construction for tours and programs;** the visitor experience was moved to the Visitor Center and Katharine Day House, and visitors were walked through the Stowe House to see on-going construction.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** The CM and contractors generously coped with visitor attention. Spaces were shielded from the public as needed, but very few days were unavailable for tours.
- **Section 106 review** with CT SHPO for IMLS and NEH was completed October 2016.
- **Project sign** crediting funding was installed on Stowe House lawn, August 2016,

Construction Activities

- **Construction began** August 2016. The first biweekly Subcontractor Construction Meeting was held Aug. 10, 2016 and they ran through December 14, 2016. The meeting was led by BBE Construction Manager and attended by the Architect, Stowe Center Project Curator and Collection Manager and Subcontractors. Minutes were distributed more widely to project consultants using Procore on-line construction management software.
- **Existing HVAC system demolished**, September 2016. The new system, including gas-fired condensing boiler, two air handlers, two dehumidifiers and outdoor condensing units, was installed and activated early November 2016. Several units required concrete mechanical pads.

The HVAC system on the third floor services that floor only; the system in the basement conditions the first and second floors.

- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** It is important to consider outside temperatures when working in a building without HVAC. New equipment was installed in November, before cold weather an issue. If the installation had been delayed a month or two temporary heating might have been required.
- Existing trench between Katharine Seymour Day House and Stowe House opened September 2016 to **connect Marioff Hi-Fog fire suppression system and VESDA fire detection system in the Day House basement to the Stowe House**. Select Stowe House walls and ceiling opened to route piping for the fire protection system. Pipes were installed and pressure tested; and the trench closed. Piping for the fire protection system in the Stowe House began September 2016; work began in the basement and moved up through all three floors. Installation completed December 2016.
- Beginning September 2016 **all existing electrical outlines and fixtures were rewired** and several additional outlets added. Two new electrical panels were installed and additional emergency lighting added. Wiring for new security cameras, gallery lighting and audiovisual components were also installed.
- All 44 original wooden sashes were removed September/October 2016, and the openings secured with plywood painted black on the exterior. **Windows were restored and re-glazed at the workshop** and returned when complete, December 2016. Window glass in the doors and transoms were installed March 2017.
- Window measurements were taken by Innerglass Windows Systems, LLC for **interior storm windows**, September 2016. Finished windows with ¼” Saflex architectural glass were installed December 2016.
- **Systems Inspected.** The fire protection system was inspected by the Hartford Fire Marshall. The HVAC and electrical systems were inspected by Hartford Building and Inspection Department.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** Some activities were completed ahead of schedule while other activities were completed behind schedule. With a large, multi-faceted construction project this is to be expected and planned for. Staying focused on critical path activities is important as is flexibility and the ability to rework the schedule to reflect new realities.

Project Funding

- \$335,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections awarded September 2011.
- \$150,000 Institute for Museums and Library Services Museums for America awarded December 2013.
- \$650,000 CT Department of Economic and Community Development awarded July 2014.
- \$300,000 from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving awarded July 2015.
- \$200,000 CT State Historic Preservation Office Historic Restoration Fund grant awarded February 2016.

- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** Funding for this capital improvement project brought new funders to the Stowe Center. Environmental upgrades in the Stowe House to safeguard collections also helped the Stowe Center raise funds for conservation as treated objects were being returned to a newly stable environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Upgraded and expanded outdated and inefficient climate management and fire protection systems.
- Improved and stabilized the environment for collections conservation in interpreted rooms as well as in collection storage, within reasonably achievable limits. De-humidification was introduced to the first and second floors; heating and cooling introduced to third floor.
- The new fire protection system reduces fire ignition risk; contains fire and smoke; and reduces fire detection time and fire department response time. Grounded lightening protection system installed on the Stowe House roof also reduces ignition risk.
- All electrical outlets and fixtures rewired to reduce ignition risk.
- New emergency lighting installed to improve visitor safety.
- Minimized the visual intrusion of new mechanical and electrical systems throughout the National Historic Landmark Stowe House to preserve building fabric.
- New mechanical systems are “right-sized” and easy to maintain and operate.
- Potential for moisture from system leaks minimized.
- Minimized risk to collections by carefully packing and storing collections on- and off-site.
- Restored and re-glazed window sashes and interior storm windows, reducing energy consumption due to building envelope losses.
- Interior storm windows reduce the impact of light on collections by eliminating UV light. Storm windows also increase security protection and reduce transmission of unwanted sound.
- All work on the building conformed to the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and the *New Orleans Charter for the Joint Preservation of Historic Structures and Artifacts*.
- Restoration of the Stowe House project completed on budget, using funds raised from federal, state and private sources. The Stowe Center supported the project through staffing.
- During construction, the Stowe Center remained opened for tours and presented an array of public programs, meeting visitor demand and maintaining and building public interest in the site.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** With so many skilled contractors on-site during construction, the Stowe Center was able to address some connecting existing maintenance issues on the Long Range Preservation Plan, such as replacing sash cords in windows, planing doors for fit, repairing flaking ceiling plaster and replacing a broken chimney pot.
- **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** The demands of this project required a willingness to be flexible and adaptable in museum operations, and public service staff responded accordingly, changing the culture.

AUDIENCE

- Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center's collections safeguards them for present and future generations and improves public access to collections.
- Building improvements provide the Stowe Center with opportunities for program and visitation growth.
- Restoring the Stowe House interior meant the Center had the opportunity to reinterpret the house and develop modern visitor experiences based on new research and visitor studies.

EVALUATION

- Day to day construction work was supervised by an on-site construction manager and Stowe Center Project Curator. Quality control monitored daily.
- Architect Penelope Watson reviewed construction performance and CM payment requests before the Stowe Center paid them.
- Before the final payment was made to the Construction Manager, the architect, fire specialist and engineer made a final inspection site visit to ensure that work was completed as specified in their plans and drawings.

CONTINUATION OF PROJECT BEYOND THE GRANT PERIOD

- The preserved, refurbished and reinterpreted Stowe House reopens to the public June 10, 2017 with a new dialogue-based, visitor-centered tour grounded in the museum's mission and responsive to visitor interests and current events. This new visitor experience is significantly different from the more lecture-based, interpreter-driven tour of the past
- Collections are returning to storage spaces and will be reinstalled in period rooms and galleries once finishes installation is complete May 2017.
- Staff and Interpretive Planning Consultant, Linda Norris, wrote and prototyped the Interpretive Plan driving the new visitor experience. Exhibit Designer Roger Westerman Design, LLC, Brooklyn, NY; exhibit fabricator Guest Exhibit Production, Brooklyn, NY; and media designer Northern Light Production, Boston, MA played a role in the design and installation of the new visitor experience.
- The Stowe House refurbishing was supported in part by the sources listed above, with additional support from private foundations and individuals.
- Directed by a Finishes Plan written by Jean Dunbar, Historic Design Inc., Lexington, VA, and staff, custom-made, reproduction carpeting and wallpaper have designed, manufactured and installed in the Stowe House. Extensive research directed this work.
- The Interpretive Plan was informed by extensive research with input from a team of scholars, including: Joan D. Hedrick, Trinity College professor of history and author of Pulitzer Prize winning *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Life*; Debby Applegate, historian and author of Pulitzer

Prize winning *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*; Eugene E. Leach, Trinity College professor of history and American Studies emeritus; Walter Woodward, CT State Historian and associate professor of history, University of CT; and Frank Mitchell, Executive Director, Amistad Center for Art and Culture at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.

- The Interpretive Plan was also informed by extensive visitor research, prototyping and evaluation. Staff used AASLH Visitor's Count and worked with Conny C. Graft, Research and Evaluation, Williamsburg, VA, conducting and evaluating visitor interviews and surveys.

APPENDICES

- Harriet Beecher Stowe Center 2016 Year in Review
- Photographic documentation of completed work

With
THANKS
to funders:

Connecticut Department of Economic and
Community Development for the Humanities
National Endowment for the Humanities
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Connecticut Historic Restoration Fund
Grant Program of the State Historic
Preservation Office
Connecticut Humanities
William and Alice Mortensen Foundation
United Technologies
Stockman Family Foundation

Bank of America Art Conservation Project
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
The Bay & Paul Foundations
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic
Interiors of the National Trust for Historic
Preservation
400+ Individual Donors

*First major interior
renovation since
1968 complements the
newly updated visitor
experience.*



- Replacing carpet, wallpaper and paint
- Renovating historic windows
- Adding state-of-the-art fire detection and suppression
- Replacing aging climate control systems

Stowe House Preservation is:

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Preserving

New
Preservation Tours highlight the
process of caring for a National
Historic Landmark.
In 2017
Stowe's home will get fresh
carpet, wallpaper and paint based
on new research revealing Stowe's
choices. Watch for the spring/
summer unveiling!



Portraits of Stowe's husband and
father and two of her own oil paintings
conserved. One of 13 museums in seven
countries funded by Bank of America Art
Conservation Project.
Stowe House furnishings, art and
decorative objects – 2,373 items –
carefully packed, moved and stored.



mission:

Inspiring commitment
to social justice and
positive change
Preserving and
interpreting Stowe's
home and the Center's
historic collections
Promoting vibrant
discussion of her life
and work

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*Term completed in 2016



HARRIET
BEECHER
STOWE
CENTER

Her words changed the world

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Info@StoweCenter.org

HarrietBeecherStowe.org



You are making your visions into realities, and doing things that some of us would like to see done, but cannot do ourselves. You are bringing The Past into the Future and making historic ground into a Place of Remembrance.”

—Martha Linsley Spencer to Katharine Seymour Day, March 27, 1940, on the purchase of 77 Forest Street



Harriet Beecher Stowe's grandniece Katharine Seymour Day took the first steps to make the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center a reality. Since opening to the public in 1968, the Center has welcomed 1 million visitors from around the world.

In 2016, major interior preservation in the Stowe House recalls Day's efforts to preserve the past and shape the future. Thanks to generous funders, the Stowe House can stand as a symbol of one person's ability to make a difference.

In this house visitors hear of Stowe's courage to act against injustice and the impact of her anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. In this house people join in civic dialogue on issues that matter to all of us. And in this house visitors can take hope and inspiration to create their own positive change.

Thank you to the donors, members and funders who support Stowe House preservation as well as those who contribute to the Stowe Center mission.

Katherine D. Kane
Executive Director



Harriet Beecher Stowe
Center **2016** YEAR IN REVIEW

STOWE Inspiring Action



STUDENT STOWE PRIZE



Big Tent Jubilee attracted 175 guests, raised \$117,775 for education programs inspiring civic engagement.

Student Stowe Prize winners Nina Sachs and Martese Johnson accepted awards for writing on empowering women and criminal justice.

Real Stories of Social Change panel discussion captivated students and community members.

Students and activists connected with community organizations at the *Inspiration to Action Fair*.



Legacy
Presenting
Sponsor



MARATHON READING



341 people participated, as readers or listeners, in a moving 24-hour reading of Stowe's most famous work, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.



SALONS AT STOWE & STOWE SALONS AT LUNCH

Audiences discussed today's headlines and generated ideas for change: Criminal justice reform, environmental racism, red-lining and housing discrimination, white privilege, educational equity, policing, and voting rights.

"... a great opportunity to discuss critical issues with diverse audiences."

"Amazing! More! Bravo!"

— Salon participants

AUTHORS & SPEAKERS



Congressman John Larson introduced civil rights documentary, *Get in the Way: The Journey of John Lewis*.

MSNBC political analyst Steve Kornacki in conversation with WNPR's Colin McEnroe, one of 11 speaker events.



TOURS

Groundbreaking interactive tours connect 19th century issues to current events, inspiring visitors to action.

Visitors came from **19 countries, 50 states**, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Named one of "50 Top Educational Attractions in the Northeast" (*The Blog for Lifestyle and Travel*)

"An inspirational visit, highly recommended!"

— Trip Advisor

EDUCATION



Students experiencing Stowe Center programs learned how to make a difference and create positive change.

"Perhaps the most valuable lesson the Stowe Center displayed is that one single person, regardless of race, social class, or gender, possesses the ability to change the world."

— Chase Collegiate High School

STOWE CENTER FUNDERS

Members, Donors and:

Aetna Foundation Inc.
Bank of America Charitable Foundation Inc.
Barnes Group Foundation
Bartlett Brainard Eacott
Bradley, Foster & Sargent, Inc.
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts
Conning
Day Pitney LLP
Elizabeth Carse Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Eversource
Fairview Capital Partners
Fiduciary Investment Advisors

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Greater Hartford Arts Council's
United Arts Campaign
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Tauck World of Giving
The Hartford
The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Co.
Travelers

United Technologies
William Beecher Scoville Foundation
William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

STOWE CENTER PARTNERS Included:
American Association for State and Local History
Amistad Center for Art & Culture
Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
Blue Star Museums
Capital Community College
Capital Region Education Council
Community Partners in Action
Connecticut Explored
Connecticut Forum
Connecticut's Historic Gardens
Discovery Center

Grow Hartford
Hartford Blooms
Hartford Stage
iQuilt Project/Envisionfest
The Mark Twain House & Museum
Muslim Coalition of Connecticut
Organized Parents Make a Difference
Smithsonian Magazine
South Marshall Street Coalition
UConn School of Law
Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art
West End Farmer's Market

COLLEAGUE EDUCATION

Organizations learn from Stowe Center's innovative tour techniques:

Coltsville National Historic Park
Connecticut League of History Organizations
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
The Historic Ford Estates
Historic New England
Lippitt House Museum
New England Museum Association
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Thomas Cole Historic Site
The Trustees of Reservations
Yale University students



Preserving the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center's Collection

Supported by NEH Grant PF-502212-11
Sept. 2011 – Dec. 2016



Preventative Conservator, Wendy Jessup advises staff on best practices for packing collections.



Packing collections for relocation to offsite storage facility.

Collections
Assistants
update
PastPerfect
collections
management
software



Period
rooms
emptied of
contents.
Select items
relocated to
on-site
storage or to
exhibits in
visitor
center and
Katharine
Day House.











Multiple shipments made to off-site storage facility.



Stowe House collections stored off-site at secure, climate controlled warehouse.



Official launch to construction, August 2016



Project sign installed in front the NHL Stowe House, NEH credited for their support



Connecticut
still revolutionary

Project Sponsors:
Connecticut Department of
Economic and Community Development
National Endowment for the Humanities
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
William and Alice Mortensen Foundation
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Penelope S. Watson, Architect
Bartlett Brainerd Escott, Construction Manager

State of Connecticut
The Honorable
Dannel P. Malloy
Governor



Preservation Means Jobs in Your Community

The rehabilitation of the 1871 Harriet Beecher
Stowe House, a *National Historic Landmark*,
is funded in part by a grant from
Connecticut's Historic Restoration Fund.

Administered by:
The State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Economic and Community Development
Catherine Smith, Commissioner



Architect Penelope Watson, construction managers, contractors and Stowe Center staff meet bi-weekly. Aug – Dec. 2016



Construction Managers confer with architect, Michael Henry



Bartlett, Brainard Eacott Site Supervisor



44 pairs of historic wooden sashes removed for restoration



All 44 original windows removed, failed double pane glass replaced with restoration-quality, single pane glass and reinstalled.

Windows
packed for
shipment to
workshop for
restoration.



Window
workshop.



Windows
returned in
several
batches.



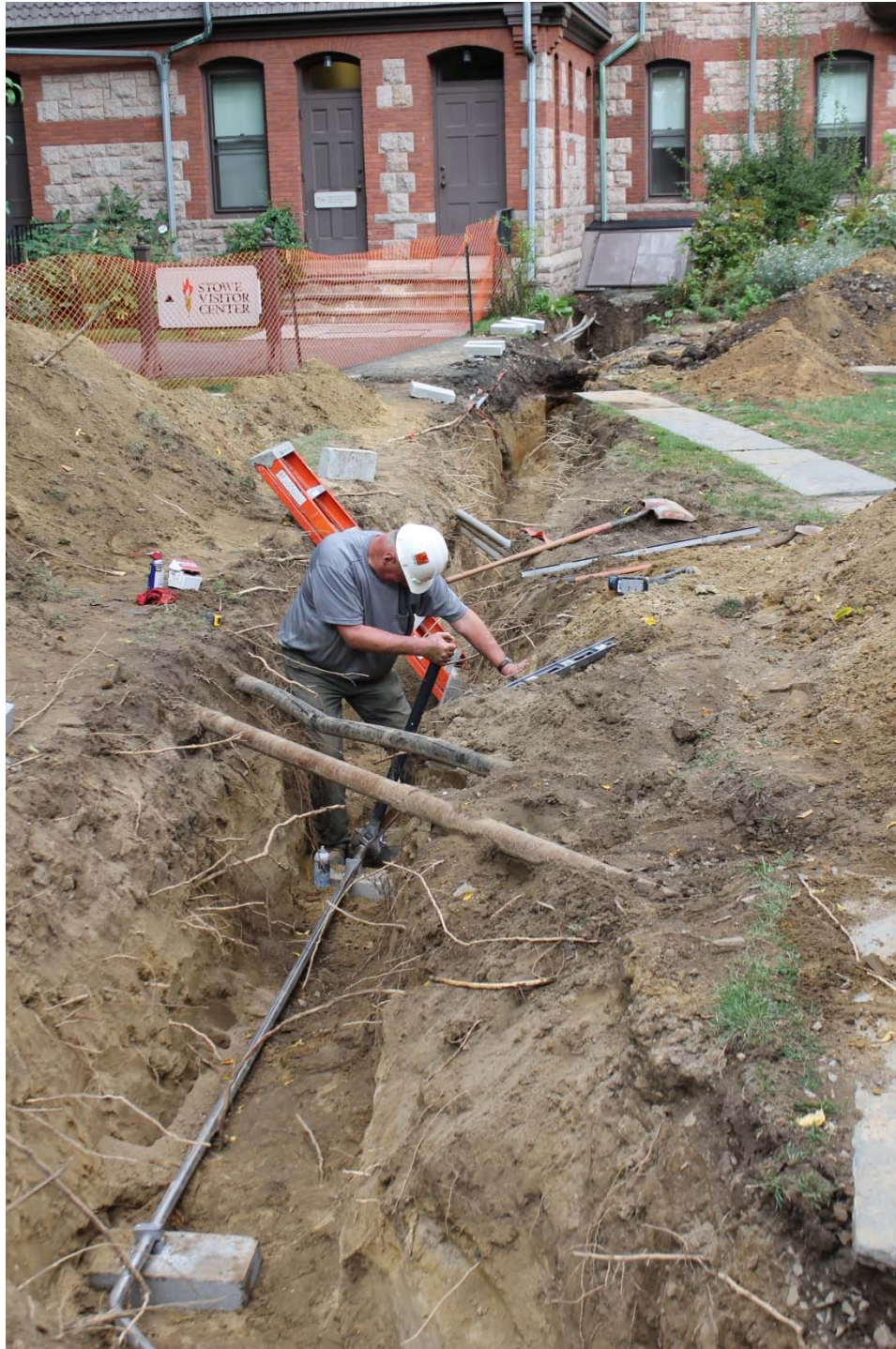




Interior storm windows installed to tighten building envelope and filter UV light. Mounting windows had minimal impact on the historic fabric and are barely visible from inside and outside the Stowe House.



Existing trench opened between Katharine Day House and Stowe House to connect Hi-Fog Marrioff fire protection system and VESDA fire detection system to Stowe House.





Piping for fire protection system cut, bent and installed in walls throughout the house- from basement upward.

Array of mist pipes (silver) and detection system pipes (orange) installed in basement and worked up through walls in three floors of the house.



Piping for fire protection systems in kitchen wall.





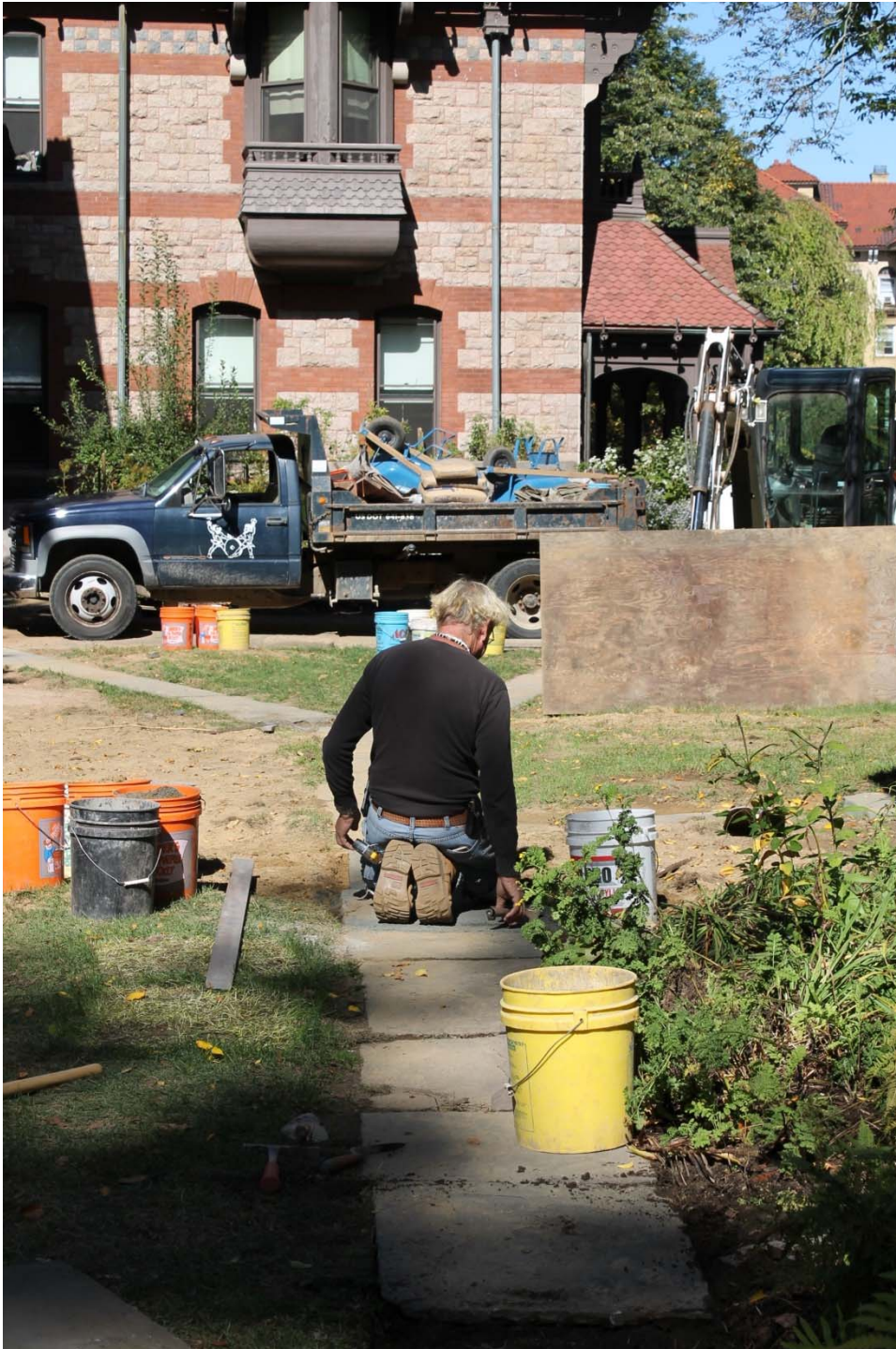
Marioff Hi-Fog system housed in Katherine Day House basement to support library archive storage and Stowe House.

Fire suppression system controls to direct mist to source of fire in two locations.





Fire protection system heads as seen near dining room cornice. Silver nozzle head for mist system; circular plate for fire detection system. Every room has 1-2 nozzles for mist in wall or ceiling; every room has one circular plate for detection system.



Trench closed, bluestone walkway re-laid, grass replanted.





Outdated, inefficient HVAC equipment replaced. Existing ductwork used. New system includes dehumidification.



HVAC equipment and ductwork rewrapped.



Hi efficiency condensing gas fired furnace installed to service 1st and 2nd floors. Dehumidification added.



Condensing units for cooling air on three floors.

Independent
heating and
cooling
system
installed on
3rd floor.





Lightening protection
added.



Existing outlets and fixtures rewired. Electrical panel replaced.



New electrical
panels
installed.





1960s wallpaper removed and wall prepared for repapering with custom-made and well-researched period appropriate papers.



Wall openings used to install fire protection systems and new electrical cable patched and replastered.

